

Speaking points session 3 (government initiatives to support LDC services suppliers)

The EU welcomes the organisation of this webinar of the Council for Trade in Services on Least-erformance and facilitating implementation of preferences notified under the LDC Services Waiver.

We would like to thank LDCs for the efforts undertaken so far, notably for their collective request of 2015 which set a good basis for allowing LDCs to benefit from trade in services. The EU would like to encourage Members who have not yet notified preferences to do so.

This webinar is taking place under extraordinary yet unfortunately familiar he economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is expected to fall especially heavily on least-developed countries (LDCs). This is due to factors such as sectoral specialisation, occupational characteristics and financial resources, as well as to inadequate access to digital infrastructure and insufficient IT skillLDCandl einfrthe5(sou)-loped nuon 160d finauffiETC

Indeed,

For example, total EU Aid for Trade invested in partner countries in transport and storage, a vital area also for goods exports, stood at 605 million euro in 2018, doubled from the previous year. Our Aid for Trade in the tourism sector rose to 38 million euro in 2018, from 15 million euro in 2007). Unprecedented levels of EU support were recorded for banking services too, totalling more than 353 million euro in 2018 (from 22 million euro in 2007).

But let me go a step further, Dear Audience. The commitment of the EU to support our partners, both less developed and developing countries, goes beyond our support to AfT and Trade Facilitation. The EU and its member States provide over half of all sustainable and inclusive economic growth and decent job creation in our partner countries, with the ultimate objective of contributing to poverty eradication in the world.

16b committed in 2019 in ODA

254 m directly invested in supporting trade facilitation and aid for trade

Currently, the EU is preparing the next Multi-indicative Programme covering 2021-2027. While our priorities remain the same, our budget contributing to development cooperation has further increased by 27% with respect to the previous financial framework 2014-2020, going up to a global amount of 123 billion euros for the next 7 years period.

Our priorities are based on five partnerships:

- Green alliances and partnerships
- Alliances for Science, technology, innovation and digital
- Alliances for sustainable growth and jobs
- Partnerships for migration and mobility
- Partnerships for human development, peace and governance

Covid-19: challenge for all of us: global pandemic, for the first time a global lockdown. How to ensure basic products, from food to medical equipment and

- EA-SA Tripartite Transport and trade facilitation programme : facilitate harmonised approach to cross border requirements in COVID times
 - Kenya safe trade emergency facility, which benefited also EAC/horn of Africa, and supported the design and implementation of protocols for safe trade
 - IGAD , also a programme to mitigate COVID impact, acting, among other things, in establishing safeguard of corridors and cross-border flows.
 - Besides: the EU disbursed 3b EUR in direct unconditional contributions to the national budgets of partner countries to address the negative consequences of the pandemic.
- In the medium- long term, and also in the context of our discussion for upcoming Multi-Indicative Programme 2021-2027, the EU has committed to support partner supporting a green and digital recovery, aiming at creating more, decent and inclusive jobs, with a focus on women and youth.

With that said, I would like to thank you for your attention. I look forward to hearing more from partners such as the EIF but especially LDCs, to get a better sense of their view of challenges and opportunities.